

Every Student Success Act (ESSA)
Role of Foster Care Point of Contact
Local Education Agency (LEA)
September 21, 2016

High Priority Areas

- Transportation - Role in providing transportation to school of origin
- Additional costs for transportation – what LEA would otherwise spend to transport a student to assigned school and cost of transporting a foster care child to school of origin.
- Collaboration with local departments of social services
- Coordinating with child welfare agency (CWA) Point of Contact (POC)

Role and Responsibilities for the SEA POC may include but not limited to:

- Coordinating with the corresponding State and tribal child welfare agency POCs to issue joint State guidance for the implementation of the Title I provisions, which should include:
 - Establishment of uniform criteria around the best interest determination factors;
 - Establishment of guidelines for transportation procedures, including how transportation will be addressed across district and State lines and what should be included in local transportation procedures;
- Facilitating data sharing with the State and tribal child welfare agencies, consistent with FERPA and other Federal or State privacy laws, regulations, and policies;
- Monitoring LEAs to ensure compliance with the Title I requirements at the local level; and
- Providing professional development opportunities and technical assistance for LEA POCs and other personnel regarding school stability and educational supports for children in foster care, as needed.
- Issue State-specific guidance that details the roles and responsibilities of the SEA POC.

Role and Responsibilities for the LEA POC may include but not limited to:

- Coordinating with the corresponding child welfare agency POC on the implementation of the Title I provisions;
- Leading the development of a process for making the best interest determination;
- Documenting the best interest determination;
- Facilitating the transfer of records and immediate enrollment;
- Facilitating data sharing with the child welfare agencies, consistent with FERPA and other privacy protocols;
- Developing and coordinating local transportation procedures;

- Managing best interest determinations and transportation costs disputes;
- Ensuring that children in foster care are enrolled in and regularly attending school; and
- Providing professional development and training to school staff on the Title I provisions and educational needs of children in foster care, as needed.

Some of the Role and Responsibilities for the CWA POC be found on pages 22-23 of the Non-Regulatory Guidance.